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Painters, Construction and Maintenance paint and varnish new and old buildings. They paint a variety of surfaces including wood, metal, concrete, masonry, and plastic. Painters must be skilled in handling painting tools and must expertly select the right tools and materials. When choosing paints and finishes, Painters have to consider job appropriateness, cost, and durability. Although most finishes come ready-mixed in almost any color, Painters must know about paint composition and color harmony to get the texture, tint, and shade the customer wants.

Tasks

- ▶ Read work order or receive instructions from supervisor or homeowner.
- ▶ Fill cracks, holes, and joints with caulk putty, plaster, or other filler, using caulking gun or putty knife.
- ▶ Mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish.
- ▶ Erect scaffolding or set up ladders to work above ground level.
- ▶ Wash and treat surfaces with oil, turpentine, mildew remover, or other preparations.
- ▶ Sand surfaces between coats and polish final coat to specified finish.
- ▶ Cut stencils, brush and spray lettering and decorations on surfaces.
- ▶ Paint surfaces, using brushes, spray gun, or rollers.
- ▶ Apply paint to simulate wood grain, marble, brick, or stonework.
- ▶ Bake finish on painted and enameled articles in baking oven.

Detailed descriptions of this occupation may be found in the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) at online.onetcenter.org.

Important Skills, Knowledge, and Abilities

- ▶ Building and Construction — Knowledge of materials, methods, and the tools involved in the construction or repair of houses, buildings, or other structures such as highways and roads.
- ▶ Equipment Selection — Determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job.
- ▶ Operation and Control — Controlling operations of equipment or systems.

Painters, Construction and Maintenance

- ▶ **Visual Color Discrimination** — The ability to match or detect differences between colors, including shades of color and brightness.
- ▶ **Dynamic Strength** — The ability to exert muscle force repeatedly or continuously over time. This involves muscular endurance and resistance to muscle fatigue.
- ▶ **Wrist-Finger Speed** — The ability to make fast, simple, repeated movements of the fingers, hands, and wrists.
- ▶ **Arm-Hand Steadiness** — The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
- ▶ **Manual Dexterity** — The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.
- ▶ **Written Comprehension** — The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.

Work Environment

Painters often work for long periods of time, extending their arms over their heads, which can be tiring and painful. They work from ladders, scaffolds, and swing stages. They risk injury from slips or falls. Painters sometimes work in places with poor air circulation. Painters also risk contact with hazardous chemicals when mixing paints. Airless spray painting can give off toxic fumes or the strong spray can cut a worker's skin. Exterior Painters must work in extreme temperatures.

Those who work for contractors may belong to the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades.

Hours of work are dependent on contract. Painters are usually laid off during periods of wet weather. In some areas of California, they may be out of work for three months or longer each year because of poor weather.

California's Job Outlook and Wages

The California Outlook and Wage table below represents the occupation across all industries.

Standard Occupational Classification	Estimated Number of Workers 2004	Estimated Number of Workers 2014	Average Annual Openings	2006 Wage Range (per hour)
Painters, Construction and Maintenance				
47-2141	68,300	81,100	2,320	\$12.38 to \$21.83

Wages do not reflect self-employment.

Average annual openings include new jobs plus net replacements.

Source: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov, Employment Projections by Occupation and OES Employment & Wages by Occupation, Labor Market Information Division, Employment Development Department.

Trends

This occupation is expected to have a growth rate of almost 19 percent, 12,800 new jobs between 2004 and 2014, much faster than average for all occupations. This growth will be fueled in large measure by the demand for new housing in California, as well as by demand for home improvement and maintenance.

Training/Requirements/Apprenticeships

Painters usually follow one of the following training paths:

- ▶ Formal apprenticeship
- ▶ Extensive on-the-job training

The apprenticeship program consists of three and one-half years of on-the-job training and 144 hours of related school instruction. Related work experience can be credited to apprentices by evaluation by the apprenticeship committee. Apprentices must be at least 16 years old.

Recommended High School Course Work

The minimum education for entry into the painting or wallpapering trade is the ability to read, write, and do simple arithmetic. Although it is not required, employers reported that most recent hires were high school graduates.

Where Do I Find the Job?

Candidates for training or apprenticeship programs should apply to a local of the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades. Direct application to employers is an effective job search method for journey-level Painters.

Use the *Search for Employers by Industry* feature on the *Career Center* page at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov to locate employers in your area. Search using keywords from the following construction industry names to get a list of private firms and their addresses:

- ▶ Elementary and Secondary Schools
- ▶ Employment Placement Agencies
- ▶ New Multifamily Housing
- ▶ New Single-Family Housing
- ▶ Professional Employer Organizations
- ▶ Residential Remodelers
- ▶ Temporary Help Services

For local listings of contractors, search these **yellow page** headings for listings of private firms:

- ▶ Painting Contractors
- ▶ Home Repair and Maintenance
- ▶ Fix-It Service

Where Can The Job Lead?

Promotion for Painters is achieved by going through the regular skill levels to reach journey-level. Some workers advance to supervisor, superintendent, cost estimator, or sales associate.

Painters may go into business as painting contractors. Businesses involved in painting contracting need licensing from the Contractors State Licensing Board of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. (See *Other Sources of Information*.)

Workers must have 4 years of journey-level experience in the past 10 years to qualify for the contractor test.

Painters, Construction and Maintenance

Other Sources of Information

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
www.iupat.org

California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards
www.dir.ca.gov/das

California Department of Consumer Affairs, Contractors State Licensing Board
www.cslb.ca.gov